

IN THE CLAIMS :

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9 wherein said reagent is selected from the group consisting of an alkali metal, alkaline earth metal [or] and transition metal salt of 5-sulfoisophthalic acid.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [10] 9 wherein said reagent is 3-sulfobenzoic acid or the sodium or lithium salt thereof.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein, in (A), said ethylene- α , β unsaturated acid is selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid [or] and mixtures thereof.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29 wherein said fiber forming adjuvant is selected from the group consisting of an antioxidant, stabilizer, colorant, processing aid, catalyst, filler, nucleating agent, anti-microbial, melt viscosity enhancer [or] and mixtures thereof.